OHV/Wilderness Interface Restoration Project (FINAL)

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A. List of Restoration Activities

The Student Conservation Association will deploy two restoration teams to the Ridgecrest Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, to undertake OHV restoration projects in and around the Golden Valley Wilderness and Owens Peak Wilderness. Two teams would be on site for 9 months in the 2010-2011 field season. Restoration efforts would involve considerable fencing of wilderness boundaries to prevent illegal vehicle use in wilderness. Extensive restoration efforts would be undertaken to repair OHV damage associated with numerous illegal hill climbs, including stabilizing soils, controlling and preventing future erosion, gully repair, and stabilizing steep slopes.

GOLDEN VALLEY WILDERNESS

One SCA team will build 6 miles of fence along the southern wilderness boundary, north of Steam Well Road. This fence will work in conjunction with the northern Golden Valley fence constructed on the south side of Savoy Road to stop vehicles from trespassing through the heart of this wilderness area. The new proposed fence will incorporate gates for sheep grazing and pedestrian-equestrian step-overs at strategic locations to provide for legitimate use and access to the wilderness area. An informational kiosk will be constructed at one of these locations. The team will also check past fences and undertake any required maintenance of these fences. Finally, the team will undertake any needed restoration efforts at five existing 5 sites that were restored previously.

OWENS PEAK WILDERNESS

South of Indian Wells Canyon

The second SCA team will build a 2-mile fence along the wilderness boundary west of the Upper Aqueduct Road. This fence will close 5 active vehicle trespasses (including 2 washes) into wilderness. Crews will fully restore 2 of these active trespasses and will partially restore a third, The two trespass routes in washes will be allowed to restore naturally. A portion of one trespass route will also be converted into a trail so it can be used as a pedestrian-equestrian trail to a prominent rock outcrop popular with visitors and rock climbers.

Indian Wells Canyon

Build vehicle barriers, install pedestrian-equestrian step-overs, and perform restoration or partial restoration on 10 vehicle trespass sites along the wilderness boundary. Crews may help refurbish information kiosks at Powers Well and the Owens Peak Trailhead. A two-mile fence will be built along the approach to Indian Wells Canyon to block a large illegal hill climb on the canyon's north side. Another quarter mile of fence may be built at the top of the hill climb where it takes off from the open jeep trail to Five Fingers. Hill climbs will be restored and erosion controls (sterile rice straw wattles) placed on the steepest faces of the hill climb to slow erosion and jumpstart recovery.

B. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage:

The proposed project activities in and around both both the Owens Peak and Golden valley Wilderness Areas is directly related to OHV recreation and to landscape damage caused by illegal OHV use. OHV use in both Owens Peak and Golden Valley have severely degraded wilderness landscapes and resources. Major hill climbs, eroded slopes, and OHV tracks in both wilderness areas are serious nimpacts to these two areas and must be repaired and the land restored to natural conditions. Before that restoration work can be undertaken, the continued future trespass of OHVs into these two areas must be addressed through the construction of fences that are also friendly to wildlife passage.

The proposed project will accomplish both those goals, prevention of future illegal OHV use in wilderness and landscape restoration. The project will restore two OHV-impacted Wilderness areas, prevent further degradation to these sites, restore designated lands by repairing existing damage and impacts, and protect the landscape from further gullying and soil erosion. The project has two phases. The first phase involves extensive fencing of wilderness areas and illegal hill climbs from future OHV incursions. Once the fences are in place, extensive restoration of the impacted slopes will be required. Tracks will be removed, gullys repaired, and erosion control measures implemented.

In addition, legal OHV use will be allowed to continue on designated routes outside of the wilderness areas.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The two wilderness areas that will be restored are Golden Valley and Owens Peak. The golden valley Wilderness is 73,573 acres in total size, while thre Owens Peak Wilderness is 36,464 acres. Both wilderness areas were designated and added to the National WIlderness Preservation System by the California Desert Protectiin Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-433.) The project will affect a significant portion of each wilderness area, both through the installation of fencing to prevent continues trespass and through direct restoration efforts of large hill climbs and other OHV impacts.

Golden Valley Wilderness: The area is named after the Golden Valley, the centerpiece of the area, is surrounded on either side by two distinct mountain ranges. The Lava Mountains stretch across the northwestern portion of the area, crowned by Dome Mountain at nearly 5,000 feet. This range is cut by several steep walled canyons that reveal bands of multi-colored sedimentary rocks. The Almond Mountains, rising to an elevation of 4,500 feet, enclose the valley on the southeast. Golden Valley, which is known for its spectacular spring floral displays, lies between the two ranges. The ruggedness of these mountains have helped shelter the valley from human intrusion. The wilderness provides nesting and foraging habitat for raptors and habitat for the desert tortoise and Mojave ground squirrel. Vegetation consists primarily of a creosote bush scrub community with Joshua trees and numerous annuals.

The proposed project will remove 13.5 miles of illegal vehicle trespass in the Golden Valley Wilderness. The amount of land directly affected by the illegal routes is 16.4 acres. Additionally, the 6 miles of fence that will be constructed will close off a total of 15,350 acres of designated wilderness currently being impacted by illegal OHV use.

Owens Peak Wilderness: Owens Peak is the highest point in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains at more than 8,400 feet, stands near the center of Owens Peak Wilderness. It presides over mountainous terrain with deep, winding canyons, many with rich riparian vegetation fed by bubbling springs. The Sierra Nevada meets the Great Basin and the Mojave Desert here, creating an unusual ecosystem. You'll find creosote bush scrub communities on the bajadas; scattered yuccas, cactuses, flowering annuals, cottonwoods, and oaks in the canyons and valleys; and juniper and piñon woodlands with sagebrush and digger pines on the upper elevations. Mule deer graze beneath golden eagles and prairie falcons. You may see evidence of active human use of this area dating back to prehistoric times. The Pacific Crest Trail crosses through the area north-south. Other trails leave the PCT to dive off the crest and eventually intersect with roads outside the Wilderness.

The proposed project will remove 15.2 miles of illegal vehicle trespass routes in the Owens Peak Wilderness. The amount of land directly affected by the illegal routes is 18.4 acres. Additionaly, 6 very large illegal hill climbs will be rehabilitated through the project. The 4.5 miles of fence that will be constructed will close off about 10,000 acres of designated wilderness currently being impacted by illegal OHV use.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

Post project monitoring will be performed primarily by BLM staff, with periodic follow up site visits by SCA Restoration Crews. Project implementation will be monitored for compliance with the Soil Management Plan by BLM staff.

Post project monitoring will measure

o Re-growth of native vegetation

o Soil that is not compacted

o Animal habitat restoration

o No signs of OHV tracks

o Sediment rehabilitation

E. List of Reports

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F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

N/A

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

The restoration activities planned in each area are high priorities for the Ridgecrest Office of the BLM. It is important to the long term management of the ares in question that ongoing and continued illegal OHV use be discouraged and prevented. Once the fencing and hard barriers are constructed and the on-the-ground, highly visible damage repaired and restored, it will be much less likely that future damage will occur. To ensure this positive outcome, ongoing monitoring by the BLM will incorporated into Field Office workplans for wilderness and law enforcement staff. Additonally, as long as SCA is working in partnership with Ridgecrest BLM, our teams will also do followup inspections to determine the long-term effectiveness of the measure undertaken.

Because of the nature of restoration, implementation of an efficient protection plan is at the center of this project. The need to have a sustainable solution to wilderness incursion will be applied through the following methods:

o There is currently both a park ranger and law enforcement officials who patrol the area frequently.

o Barriers are the best solution for permanent and sustainable prevention of incursion.

In addition Ridgecrest has developed handouts on Owens Peak and Golden Valley Wilderness Areas. These handouts are distributed by park and law enforcement rangers, by the Ridgecrest Field Office. The handouts have maps and describe the rules and regulations governing these different areas.

There is currently both BLM ranger and law enforcement officials who patrol the area frequently.

Additional Documentation

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

Owens Peak WIlderness/Project Site
Golden Valley Wilderness/Project Site
Owens Peak Vicinity Map
Golden Valley Vicinity Map

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

OHV Trespass/Owens Peak
Indian Wells Canyon Trespass

Project Cost Estimate

	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Version # _____ APP # _____		
APPLICANT NAME :	Student Conservation Association		
PROJECT TITLE :	OHV/Wilderness Interface Restoration Project (FINAL)	**PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :**	G09-04-23-R01
PROJECT TYPE :	☐ Acquisition ☐ Development ☐ Education & Safety ☐ Ground Operations ☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Planning ☑ Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	The Student Conservation Association will deploy two restoration teams to the Ridgecrest Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, to undertake OHV restoration projects in and around the Golden Valley Wilderness and Owens Peak Wilderness. Two teams would be on site for 9 months in the 2010-2011 field season. Restoration efforts would involve considerable fencing of wilderness boundaries to prevent illegal vehicle use in wilderness. Extensive restoration efforts would be undertaken to repair OHV damage associated with numerous illegal hill climbs, including stabilizing soils, controlling and preventing future erosion, gully repair, and stabilizing steep slopes. GOLDEN VALLEY WILDERNESS One SCA team will build 6 miles of fence along the southern wilderness boundary, north of Steam Well Road. This fence will work in conjunction with the northern Golden Valley fence constructed on the south side of Savoy Road to stop vehicles from trespassing through the heart of this wilderness area. The new proposed fence will incorporate gates for sheep grazing and pedestrian-equestrian step-overs at strategic locations to provide for legitimate use and access to the wilderness area. An informational kiosk will be constructed at one of these locations. The team will also check past fences and undertake any required maintenance of these fences. Finally, the team will undertake any needed restoration efforts at five existing 5 sites that were restored previously. OWENS PEAK WILDERNESS South of Indian Wells Canyon The second SCA team will build a 2-mile fence along the wilderness boundary west of the Upper Aqueduct Road. This fence will close 5 active vehicle trespasses (including 2 washes) into wilderness. Crews will fully restore 2 of these active trespasses and will partially restore a third, The two trespass routes in washes will be allowed to restore naturally. A portion of one trespass route will also be converted into a trail so it can be used as a pedestrian-equestrian trail to a prominent rock outcrop popular with visitors and rock climbers. Indian Wells Canyon Build vehicle barriers, install pedestrian-equestrian step-overs, and perform restoration or partial restoration on 10 vehicle trespass sites along the wilderness boundary. Crews may help refurbish information kiosks at Powers Well and the Owens Peak Trailhead. A two-mile fence will be built along the approach to Indian Wells Canyon to block a large illegal hill climb on the canyon's north side. Another quarter mile of fence may be built at the top of the hill climb where it takes off from the open jeep trail to Five Fingers. Hill climbs will be restored and erosion controls (sterile rice straw wattles) placed on the steepest faces of the hill climb to slow erosion and jumpstart recovery.		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	**Staff**						
	Other-Project Leaders Notes : Each restoration team is headed up and supervised by a trained and paid SCA Project Leader. Project leader costs consist of salary, benefits, training, travel.	2.000	34870.000	EA	69,740.00	0.00	69,740.00
	Other-Program Manager Notes : One Project manager oversees the Project Leaders, manage project budgets and reporting, trouble-shoot any personnel situations that arise, coordinate with BLM staff.	1.000	22000.000	EA	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00
	Other-Crew Members Notes : Each SCA Restoration team has six crew members who serve for 9 months. Crew member costs include living allowances for 12 crew members for the 9 months of the project.	12.000	4844.000	EA	58,128.00	0.00	58,128.00
	Other-Workers Compensation Notes : Nine months of Workers Compensation for 12 crew	12.000	472.500	EA	5,670.00	0.00	5,670.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	members assigned to two crews						
	Other-Health Insurance Notes : SCA provides health insurance to all SCA interns who serve for longer than 3 months as a necessary benefit for someone volunteering that much time out of their lives. Health Insurance runs $125.00 pr member per month.	12.000	1125.000	YR	13,500.00	0.00	13,500.00
	Other-Recruiting/Admissions Notes : SCA recruits its Project Leaders and Crew Members through an intensive national process. This level of national recruiting allows SCA to provide the highest quality of applicants to our agency partners and conservation service projects. Costs of recruiting 12 crew members and 2 project leaders from national pool of applicants. Application review, interviews, screening, and assigning members to crews.	14.000	1000.000	YR	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
	Other-Risk Management Notes : SCA places top priority on safety. Risk management expenses einclude safety protocols, developing Emergency Response Plans for each team, operating 24/7 emergency hotline, medical screening of applicants, completing required background checks and MVR reports.	2.000	1150.000	YR	2,300.00	0.00	2,300.00
	Other-Direct Project Management Support Notes : Costs asociated with direct project support. Project manager travel, site visits, metings with host agency, coordination with other agencies and partners, reporting, close out of project.	2.000	6500.000	YR	13,000.00	0.00	13,000.00
	Other-Service Hours Notes : Value of service hours accomplished by 12 crew members during project. Each team will accomplish 7,680 hours for a total of 15,360 hours valued at $320,256 using Independent Sector valuations of volunteers at $20.85/hour.	15360.000	20.850	YR	0.00	320,256.00	320,256.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Staff				198,338.00	320,256.00	518,594.00
2	**Contracts**						
3	**Materials / Supplies**						
	Other-Tools & Equipment Notes : Hand tools, GPS, camping equipment, first aid kits, hydration packs, protective clothing used by two crews while in the field on restoration projects	2.000	10000.000	EA	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
	Other-Field Meals Notes : Field meals for two restoration teams while spiked out at project sites. Per team cost for two 10-day hitches per month for nine months.	2.000	8400.000	EA	16,800.00	0.00	16,800.00
	Other-Gasoline Notes : Gas, oil, auto supplies for four project vehicles for nine months used by two SCA teams on restoration projects.	2.000	4200.000	EA	8,400.00	0.00	8,400.00
	Other-Fencing Materials Notes : Fencing materials consisting of barb wire, smooth wire, posts, etc for exclusion fences.	11.000	3200.000	MI	35,200.00	0.00	35,200.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				80,400.00	0.00	80,400.00
4	**Equipment Use Expenses**						
	Equipment Rental Notes : Rental fees for heavy duty, gas powered auger to drill selected fence post holes in rocky terrain.	1.000	3000.000	MISC	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
	4x4 Vehicle Notes : Vehicle leases for each crew, 2 vehicles per crew, one for project leader, one for crew members. Four vehicles total for none months each	4.000	10800.000	EA	43,200.00	0.00	43,200.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				46,200.00	0.00	46,200.00

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
5	**Equipment Purchases**						
6	**Others**						
	Utilities Notes : Utilty costs for crew housing (two houses for nine months).	2.000	3500.000	EA	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00
	Other-Office supplies Notes : Office supplies including mobile office (cell phone, supplies)	2.000	1900.000	EA	3,800.00	0.00	3,800.00
	Other-Housing Notes : Rental housing for crew members, project leader. One house for 14 members at nine months.	2.000	12000.000	EA	24,000.00	0.00	24,000.00
	Other-Training Notes : Safety and restoration technique training prior to entering field. 4 wheel driving, tool use, first aid, safety protocols, restoration techniques in arid environments, desert ecology, interacting with public.	14.000	1000.000	EA	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
	Total for Others				48,800.00	0.00	48,800.00
7	**Indirect Costs**						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs Notes : Indirect costs associated with project at 10% of costs associated with each team.	2.000	18686.000	EA	37,372.00	0.00	37,372.00
Total Program Expenses					411,110.00	320,256.00	731,366.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					411,110.00	320,256.00	731,366.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					**411,110.00**	**320,256.00**	**731,366.00**

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	198,338.00	320,256.00	518,594.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	80,400.00	0.00	80,400.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	46,200.00	0.00	46,200.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	48,800.00	0.00	48,800.00	
7	Indirect Costs	37,372.00	0.00	37,372.00	
Total Program Expenses		411,110.00	320,256.00	731,366.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		411,110.00	320,256.00	731,366.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**411,110.00**	**320,256.00**	**731,366.00**	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

ITEM 2

b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a “Project” under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? (Please select Yes or No) ◉ Yes ○ No

d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a “Project” under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ○ No

e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a “Project” under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

The desert tortoise (federall listed as a threatened species) inhabits the proposed areas of restoration. Monitoring for signs of the desert tortoise by BLM wildlife staff will be done prior to restoration. Protocols will be included in the project environmental assessment specifically stating if signs of active or live tortoises are found, restoration of the site will not continue. Alternative Management decisions will be made in consultation with the BLM wildlife biologist.

Work required in advance or restoration projects includes preparation of categorical exclusions of environmental assessment of individual restoration projects planned for BLM lands in the California Desert. The California State Ecologist will serve as coordinator to ensure that all restoration projects proceed according to NEPA processes, including approval form BLM archaeologists and wildlife biologists responsible for attesting that restoration projects conserve or enhance cultural and biotic resources. NEPA documents will address conditions and concerns of all resource specialists. In addition, the BLM State Ecologist will work with the OHMVR Division’s CEQA specialist to ensure that all of the State of California concerns for CEQA and the California Endangered Species Act are met or exceeded.

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

The entire intent of the proposed project is to benefit the existing ecosystems and public expectations: to restore habitats, and their native species (especially the desert tortoise) and desert ecosystems to desired condition and function and to provide

sustainable OHV recreation opportunities and access for individuals in the California Desert. Ongoing

coordinated land management that emphasizes law enforcement patrols, OHV trail Monitoring accurate and clear signing of

designated routes and wilderness boundaries, and public outreach will all support initial restoretion efforts.

It is not legal for there to be OHV use in areas included in the National Wilderness Preservation System and this proposed project will restore the effected wilderness land, vegetation and habitat to it's original wild state. At the same time, signing will demonstrate where OHV use is legal so that people can continue to enjoy the surrounding areas through OHV recreation.

Some areas outside the two wilderness areas have also been designated as Limited Use Areas adjoining wilderness, where OHV use is also not legal. The proposed project will work both sides of the OHV/Wilderness interface at the same time and will be far more likely to achieve the desired results - keeping vehicles on the designated route system - as efforts on both sides of the boundary reinforce each other.

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

The implementation of the proposed project will have soil disturbing practices, but these practices are necessary components of an effective restoration program and will improve soil resources and ecological integrity. and tthere will be mild ground disturbances when the restoration crew uses trucks to bring in large boulders as a means of barricading the illegal routes. however, these track, like the OHV tracks, will be de-compacted andrestored to original state preventing further erosion of the soil.

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

There are no highways designated as state scenic highways within the view of the proposed areas.

There are 5 very large and visible, illegal hill climbs on the slopes of Indian Wells, Short and Sand Canyons. These canyons are some of the most scenic canyons in the southern Eastern Sierra region. Some are visible from Highway 395, all are visible from the Upper Aqueduct Road a principal route for accessing these canyons. Restoring them would remove a major ORV user-created detractant from scenic values in the area.

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ○ Yes ◉ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

Cultural inventories have been accomplished and all mitigation measures identified

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

All indirect impacts of this project would be of a restorative nature. The routes to be closed by fences and/or restoration are not open vehicle routes. There are hundreds of miles of legally open vehicle routes for users to use immediately adjacent to wilderness and within the Sierra Front Country LImited Use Area. Compliance with the designated route system and wilderness regulations are essential for preserving OHV-riding opportunities in outside of open areas. Visitors are drawn to these areas, because of their spectacular scenery, relative naturalness and/or wildness, and many special resources. This project would preserve and protect and enhance these values for all visitors to these areas.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

Golden Valley Environmental Assessment
Owens Peak Environmental Assessment
Programmatic EA-Wilderness Restoration
Programmatic EA-Non-Wilderness Restoration

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ○ 76% or more (10 points)
- ○ 51% - 75% (5 points)
- ◉ 26% - 50% (3 points)
- ○ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 18

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)
- ☑ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
- ☐ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
- ☑ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
- ☑ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [3]
- ☑ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species [2]
- ☑ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species [4]

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Illegal OHV use has led to soil erosion in the Golden Valley Wilderness, Owens Peak Wilderness, and the Southern Eastern Sierra Front Country. There are multiple vehicle intrusions into wilderness that are undermining wilderness character and values. The project area spans two South Sierran ACECs: Short Canyon and Sand Canyon, popular for their scenery and spectacular wildflower displays. Proposed work along the southern boundary of the Golden Valley Wilderness will stop vehicle intrusions into the Steam Well petroglyph site, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Both project areas support a number of special status and threatened species, such as the Desert Tortoise, Mojave Ground Squirrel, Mojave tarplant, Charlotte's phacelia, Nine Mile Canyon phacelia and Latimer's woodland-gilia.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
- ◉ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
- ○ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
- ○ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
- ○ Management decision (1 point)
- ○ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)

○ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Wilderness Restoration Programmatic Environmental Assessment
Ridgecrest Resource Area-Wide Maintenance & Surface Restoration Environmental Assessment
Golden Valley Wilderness Vehicle Barriers and Wing Fences Environmental Assessment
Owens Peak Wilderness and South Sierra Front Country Fences as Vehicle Trespass Barriers Environmental Assessment (In Progress)

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 8

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☑ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☑ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☑ Use of native plants and materials
- ☐ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☑ Educational signage
- ☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

Site monitoring by BLM and Student Conservation Association staff
Construction of Barriers will be implemented by Student Conservation Association crew members and overseen by BLM SCA Project Leader.
Native plants are utilized for restoration tenchniques such as vertical mulching.
SCA teams will place educational signage on wilderness boundaries and at selected educational kiosks and picnic sites.

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

○ No (No points) ◉ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA)
West Mojave Plan, amendment to the CDCA Plan

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- ○ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- ◉ Other Grant funding (2 points)
- ○ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 1

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☑ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☐ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

SCA staff developed project in face to face and telephone consultation with BLM Ridgecrest staff

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ 4 or more (4 points)
- ◉ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ○ 1 (1 point)
- ○ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Bureau of Land Management/Ridgecrest Field Office and California State Office, California Wilderness Coalition.

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
- ☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
- ☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
- ☐ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ○ No (No points)
- ◉ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

The BLM Ridgecrest Field Office has been using restoration and hard vehicle barriers for several years to control illegal off-route and wilderness vehicle use. The proposed fences are designed to stop vehicle use on large hillclimbs and/or in wide-open terrain where restoration techniques alone and/or more limited barriers have failed to stop vehicle trespass. Restoration alone is proposed for sites where restoration has the best chance of succeeding due to the nature of the trespass and/or physical characteristics of the site.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- (•) Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
- ( ) 1 – 10 acres (3 points)
- ( ) Less than 1 acre (1 points)
- ( ) No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)